

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4237

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABARONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MASERU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1553

PLEASE PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO

SUBJECT: SIAD RESPONDS HARSHLY TO TEFERI COMMENTS; CONDEMNS  
SECRETARY'S SOUTHERN AFRICA SHUTTLE

REF: ADDIS ABABA 10272

SUMMARY: IN HARD HITTING SPEECH ON OCCASION IDD EL-FITR,  
PRESIDENT MOHAMED SIAD BARRE ACCUSED EPMG OF SABOTAGING  
EFFORTS TO SETTLE ETHIO/SOMALI DISAGREEMENTS PEACEFULLY.  
SIAD CLAIMED COMMENTS MADE BY PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTI  
SEPTEMBER 12 WERE BASELESS AND AIMED AT MISLEADING WORLD  
OPINION AND CHALLENGED EPMG TO PUT TEFERI'S "SWEET TALK"  
INTO ACTION BY AGREEING TO FACE-TO-FACE NEGOTIATIONS  
WITH GSDR AT TIME AND PLACE OF EPMG'S CHOOSING. SIAD  
SAID GSDR WAS OPPOSED TO BLOODSHED BUT REAFFIRMED SOMALIA'S  
DETERMINATION TO DEFEND ITSELF IF ATTACKED. ON SOUTHERN  
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AFRICA, SIAD CRITICIZED "OPTIMISM" EXPRESSED BY "MANY" AFRICAN

HEADS OF STATE AND REPEATED ALLEGATION THAT SECRETARY'S SHUTTLE WAS INTENDED PRESERVE ILLEGAL REGIMES AND IMPERIALIST INTERESTS IN REGION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN SEPTEMBER 25 SPEECH ON OCCASION IDD EL-FITR, SIAD FOCUSED ON ETHIO/SOMALI RELATIONS AND ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE REVIEWED HISTORY OF SOMALI EFFORTS TO ENGAGE ETHIOPIANS IN DISCUSSIONS TO SETTLE PEACEFULLY LAND AND POPULATION PROBLEMS, EFFORTS WHICH HE SAID WERE FRUSTRATED BY ADDIS' STUBBORNNESS. AS EXAMPLE, SIAD POINTED TO SECRET TALKS HE HAD HELD WITH EPMG AT OAU EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT LAST JANUARY IN WHICH GSDR HAD SUGGESTED ETHIO/SOMALI FEDERATION TO SOLVE PROBLEMS DISPUTED LANDS AND POPULATIONS. THIS PROPOSAL, ACCORDING TO SIAD, WAS PUBLICLY DISTORTED AND MALIGNED BY EPMG THUS DEMONSTRATING THAT ETHIOPIANS HAD NO DESIRE SETTLE PROBLEMS OR BRING HEDMONY TO RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

2. SOMALI PRESIDENT DISMISSED PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTI'S SEPTEMBER 12 REVOLUTION DAY COMMENTS (REFTEL) AS "BASELESS, UNFOUNDED AND UNBESITTING A RESPONSIBLE HEAD OF STATE" AND CHARGED THAT EPMG IS ATTEMPTING TO MISLEAD WORLD OPINION. SIAD CHALLENGED EPMG TO PUT INTO ACTION TEFERI'S "SWEET WORDS" BY AGREEING TO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE ETHIO/SOMALI DIFFERENCES. TIME AND VENUE FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS ARE AT THE ETHIOPIANS' CHOOSING.

3. LATER, SIAD PROCLAIMED SOMALIA'S OPPOSITION TO KILLINGS AND BLOODSHED. GSDR "DOES NOT INTEND TO LET COLONIALISTS AND IMPERIALIST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A CONFLICT AND CREATE BLOODSHED BETWEEN TWO AFRICAN COUNTRIES", BUT HE CONTINUED, "IF WE ARE PROVOKED, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE WILL FIERCELY DEFEND OURSELVES".

4. ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA SIAD NOTED THE OPTIMISM OF MANY CHIEFS OF STATE OVER THE PROGRESS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TO BRING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS THERE. BUT, SAID SIAD, THE SDR "TAKES EXCEPTION TO THAT OPTIMISTIC ATTITUDE AND ANNOUNCES THAT IT DOES NOT SHARE THIS OPINION". HE CHARGED THAT THE SECRETARY'S MISSION WAS DESIGNED TO PRESERVE THE ILLEGAL REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND TO FURTHER THE INTERESTS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM IN THAT REGION. FURTHERMORE, ACCORDING TO SAID, THE T  
UY WAS AIMED AT UNDERMINING AFRICAN UNITY AND AT  
FOSTERING CONDITIONS THAT WOULD LEAD TO WARS SUCH AS THOSE IN INDOCHINA. IN THIS CONTEXT SIAD CLAIMED THAT SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST SHUTTLE HAD "NEARLY SHATTERED ARAB UNITY AND CAUSED DISINTEGRATION".

5. COMMENT: SIAD COMMENTS ON ETHIO/SOMALI PROBLEM WERE HARSHTEST WE HAVE SEE FROM HIGH-LEVEL GSDR FIGURE " BY PUTTING BLAME FOR PREVIOUS FAILURE EPMG/GSDR TALKS SQUARELY ON ETHIOPIA AND BELITTLLING PERSONALLY THE PMAC CHAIRMAN, SIAD MAKES CLEAR THAT HE IS IN NO HURRY TO SWEETEN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH ADDIS. HE ALSO LEAVES LITTLE DOUBT THAT GSDR IS PREPARED TO USE FORCE TO DEFEND ITS INTERESTS, THOUGH HE IS, PROBABLY INTENTIONALLY, VAGUE ON WHAT SORT OF THREAT OR PROVOCATION MIGHT TRIGGER THAT FORCE.

6. SIAD LINE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA IS SAME AS WE HAVE BEEN SEEING FOR PAST SEVERAL WEEKS AND REVEALS GSDR'S UNABASHED EAGERNESS TO PARROT MOSCOW EVEN WHEN THIS SEPARATES GSDR FROM AFRICAN MAINSTREAM. SHOULD SIAD/SCHAUFLE MEETING TAKE PLACE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAY WISH TO POINT TO GSDR'S FREQUENT, ILL-FOUNDED AND GRATUITIOUS ATTACKS ON US ATTITUDES AND POLICIES CONCERNING SOUTHERN AFRICA AS ONE (OF MANY) CAUSES OUR DOUBTS THAT GSDR SINCERELY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING TIES WITH US. MR. SCHAUFLE MAY ALSO WISH TO SUGGEST THAT MODERATION OF SOMALI RHETORIC ON THIS ISSUE, AS WELL AS ON OTHERS IMPORTANT TO US SUCH AS KOREA AND ANGOLA, MIGHT HELP GSDR TO REFUTE MORE CONVINCINGLY THE CHARGE THAT IT SIMPLY A SOVIET SURROGATE IN AFRICA. END COMMENT.  
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